Winged Euonymus *Euonymus alta*

Description: A deciduous slow growing shrub can reach 4.6-6.1 meters in height (and width). Gray-brown bark and stems have prominent, corky wings running along both sides. The leaf-buds are brownish-green, and strongly divergent. The leaves are opposite, elliptic, and measure 2.5-7.6 cm long and 1.3-3.2 cm wide with fine, sharp serrations on the margin. In autumn the dark green leaves turn a brilliant purplish red to scarlet color before dropping to the ground. The inconspicuous flowers are small and yellowish green in color. Smooth, purplish fruit are 1.3 cm long and are present in September through October. Each fruit contains approximately four red to orange seeds.

Common names: burning bush, winged euonymus, winged wahoo, winged spindle-tree, Japanese spindle-tree

Fruit

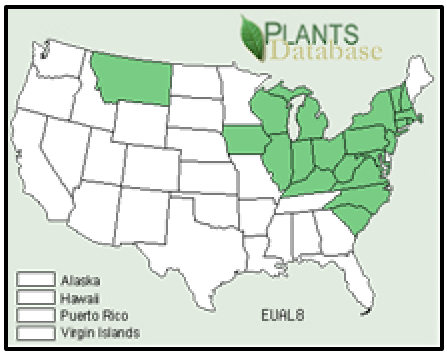
Leaves

Fall colors!

Unwinged stems

Winged stems

Habitat: This new invader makes dense thickets that can shade out native herbs and crowd out native shrubs. It is adaptable to various environmental conditions; it grows well in different soil types and pH levels, has no serious pest problems in North America, and is tolerant of full shade. Populations have been found in mature white oak upland forest and open, second growth lowland forest. Other populations have been found dominating pastures, the understory of shady hillsides, small ravines in valley floor forests, and glacial drift hill prairies.



Distribution: found in the USA from New England to northern Florida and the Gulf Coast. It is hardy to USDA Zone 4.

Control: Because it produces a tremendous amount of seed, control is difficult. Suggested control methods include:

1. Hand-pull seedings up to 60 cm (2 feet) tall.
2. Cut or Dig out larger plants and their root systems can be with a spading fork or pull with a weed wrench. Ground out stump and painted with glyphosate immediately after cutting.
3. Apply herbicide (glyphosate) as a foliar spray to large populations.
4. An extremely labor intensive method to prevent spread is to trim off all the flowers.
5. Plant native or non-invasive alternatives.

References:

http://www.nobleplants.com,
http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/alert/alrteuon.html
http://plants.usda.gov